The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-47 (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): An expression construct comprising in a 5' to 3' orientation:

(A) an HIV-2 promoter sequence operably linked to a selected polynucleotide; and

(B) an inducible promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the HIV-tat transactivating factor, which binds to and activates said HIV-2 promoter.

Claim 49 (Cancelled).

Claim 50 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 48, wherein said inducible promoter is a heat shock promoter.

Claim 51 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 50, wherein said heat shock promoter is selected from the group consisting of an HSP70 promoter, an HSP90 promoter, an HSP60 promoter, an HSP27 promoter, an HSP25 promoter, and a ubiquitin promoter.

Claim 52 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 48, which further comprises, in a 5' to 3' orientation, a second promoter sequence operably linked to a selectable marker gene between (A) and (B).

Claim 53 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 48, wherein said selected polynucleotide results in the production of a polypeptide, protein, ribozyme, or an antisense molecule.

Claim 54 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 48, which further comprises a second selected polynucleotide operably linked to said HIV-2 promoter and an internal ribosome entry site positioned between the two selected polynucleotides.

Claim 55 (Previously added): The expression construct of Claim 54, wherein said second selected polynucleotide results in the production of a polypeptide, protein, ribozyme, or an antisense molecule.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): A method of expressing a selected polynucleotide in a cell, comprising

providing an expression construct, which comprises (A) an HIV-2 promoter sequence operably linked to a selected polynucleotide; and (B) an inducible promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the HIV tat transactivating factor, which binds to and activates said HIV-2 promoter;

introducing said expression construct into the cell; and

subjecting said cell to conditions which activate said inducible promoter thereby resulting in the expression of said selected polynucleotide.

Claim 57 (Cancelled).

Claim 58 (Previously added): The method of Claim 56, wherein said inducible promoter is a heat shock promoter.

Claim 59 (Previously added): The method of Claim 58, wherein said conditions which activate said heat shock promoter comprises subjecting the cell to hyperthermic conditions.

Claim 60 (Previously added): The method of Claim 58, wherein said heat shock promoter is selected from the group consisting of an HSP70 promoter, an HSP90 promoter, an HSP60 promoter, an HSP27 promoter, an HSP25 promoter, and a ubiquitin promoter.

Claim 61 (Previously added): The method of Claim 56, wherein the expression construct further comprises, in a 5' to 3' orientation, a second promoter sequence operably linked to a selectable marker gene between (A) and (B).

Claim 62 (Previously added):The method of Claim 56, wherein said selected polynucleotide results in the production of a polypeptide, protein, ribozyme, or an antisense molecule.

Claim 63 (Previously added): The method of Claim 56, wherein the expression construct further comprises a second selected polynucleotide operably linked to said HIV-2 promoter and an internal ribosome entry site positioned between the two selected polynucleotides.

Claim 64 (Previously added): The method of Claim 63, wherein said second selected polynucleotide results in the production of a polypeptide, protein, ribozyme, or an antisense molecule.

Claim 65 (Previously added): The method of Claim 56, wherein the introduction of said expression construct into the cell is mediated by a delivery vehicle selected from the group consisting of liposomes, retroviruses, adenoviruses, adeno-associated viruses, lentiviruses, herpes simplex viruses, and vaccinia viruses.

Claim 66 (Previously added): The method of Claim 56, wherein the introduction of said expression construct occurs *in vitro*.

Claim 67 (Previously added): The method of Claim 56, wherein the introduction of said expression construct occurs *in vivo* or *ex vivo*.

Claim 68 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 48; and a carrier.

Claim 69 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 49; and a carrier.

Claim 70 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 50; and a carrier.

Claim 71 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 51; and a carrier.

Claim 72 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 52; and a carrier.

Claim 73 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 53; and a carrier.

Claim 74 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 54; and a carrier.

Claim 75 (Previously added): A composition comprising the expression construct of Claim 55; and a carrier.